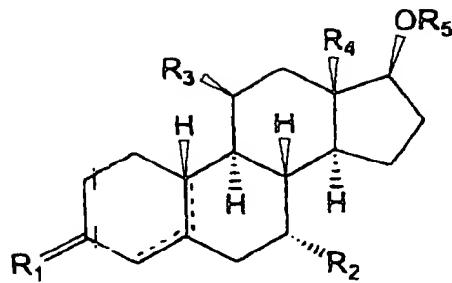


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In the Claims

1. (Original) A compound of the structural formula:

(I)



wherein

R<sub>1</sub> is O, (H,H), (H,OR), NOR, with R being hydrogen,( $C_{1-6}$ )alkyl, or ( $C_{1-6}$ )acyl;R<sub>2</sub> is ( $C_{2-3}$ )alkyl, isopropyl, ( $C_{2-3}$ )1-alkenyl, isopropenyl, 1,2-propadienyl, or ( $C_{2-3}$ ) 1-alkynyl, each optionally substituted by halogen; or R<sub>2</sub> is cyclopropyl, or cyclopropenyl, each optionally substituted by ( $C_{1-2}$ )alkyl or halogen;R<sub>3</sub> is hydrogen, ( $C_{1-2}$ )alkyl, or ethenyl;R<sub>4</sub> is ( $C_{1-2}$ ) alkyl;R<sub>5</sub> is hydrogen, or ( $C_{1-15}$ )acyl; and

the dotted lines indicate optional bonds;

with the proviso that the compound is not ( $7\alpha,17\beta$ )-7-ethyl-17-hydroxyestr-4-en-3-one ( $7\alpha$ -ethyl-19-nortestosterone) or a

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carboxylic ester thereof, and is not  $(7\alpha,17\beta)$ -17-(acetyloxy)-7-propylestr-4-en-3-one ( $7\alpha$ -propyl-19-nortestosterone acetate).

C14

2. (Canceled)

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3. (Currently Amended) A The compound according to claim 1, wherein  $R_2$  is selected from the group consisting of ethyl, ethenyl, ethynyl, propyl, 1-propenyl, 1-propynyl, 1,2-propadienyl, and cyclopropyl.

4. (Currently Amended) A The compound according to claim 1, wherein  $R_1$  is oxo,  $R_3$  is hydrogen, and the dotted lines indicate a  $\Delta^4$  double bond.

5. (Currently Amended) A The compound according to claim 1, wherein  $R^2$  is ethyl or ethenyl.

6. (Currently Amended) A The compound according to claim 1, selected from the group consisting of  $(7\alpha,17\beta)$ -7,13-Diethyl-17-hydroxygon-4-en-3-one and  $(7\alpha,17\beta)$ -7-Ethenyl-13-ethyl-17-hydroxygon-4-en-3-one.

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7. (Canceled)

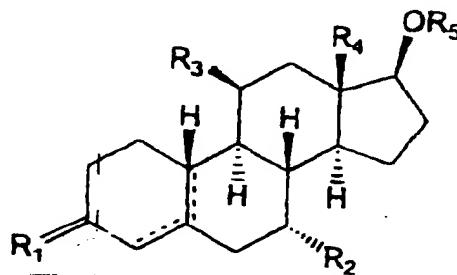
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8. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition, comprising:

a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and comprising, as a medicinally active agent, a steroid compound, as a medicinally active agent, satisfying the general formula I

(C2)

(I)



wherein

R<sub>1</sub> is O, (H,H), (H,OR), NOR, with R being hydrogen, (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, or (C<sub>1-6</sub>)acyl;

R<sub>2</sub> is (C<sub>2-3</sub>)alkyl, isopropyl, (C<sub>2-3</sub>)1-alkenyl, isopropenyl, 1,2-propadienyl, or (C<sub>2-3</sub>)1-alkynyl, each optionally substituted by halogen; or R<sub>2</sub> is cyclopropyl, or cyclopropenyl, each optionally substituted by (C<sub>1-2</sub>)alkyl or halogen;

R<sub>3</sub> is hydrogen, (C<sub>1-2</sub>)alkyl, or ethenyl;

R<sub>4</sub> is (C<sub>1-2</sub>) alkyl;

R<sub>5</sub> is hydrogen, or (C<sub>1-15</sub>)acyl; and

the dotted lines indicate optional bonds.

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9. (Currently Amended) A The pharmaceutical composition formulation according to claim 8, wherein R<sup>2</sup> is selected from the group consisting of ethyl, ethenyl, ethynyl, propyl, 1-propenyl, 1-propynyl, 1,2-propadienyl, and cyclopropyl.

10. (Currently Amended) A The pharmaceutical composition formulation according to claim 9, wherein the steroid compound is selected from the group consisting of (7 $\alpha$ ,17 $\beta$ )-7-ethyl-17-hydroxyestr-4-en-3-one, (7 $\alpha$ ,17 $\beta$ )-7,13-diethyl-17-hydroxygon-4-en-3-one, and (7 $\alpha$ ,17 $\beta$ )-7-ethenyl-13-ethyl-17-hydroxygon-4-en-3-one.

11. (Currently Amended) A The pharmaceutical composition formulation according to claim 8 suitable for oral administration.

12. (Canceled)

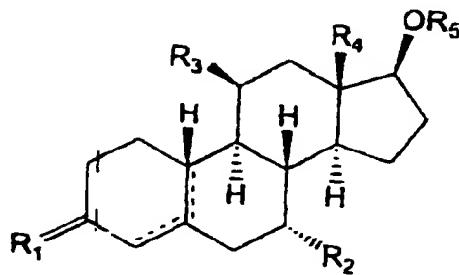
13. (Withdrawn) A kit for male contraception comprising a progestagen and an androgen, wherein the androgen is a compound according to claim 1.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of treatment of androgen insufficiency, comprising:

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administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of an androgen, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the androgen is a steroid compound satisfying ~~the general~~ formula I

(I)



wherein

R<sub>1</sub> is O, (H,H), (H,OR), NOR, with R being hydrogen, (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, or (C<sub>1-6</sub>)acyl;

R<sub>2</sub> is (C<sub>2-3</sub>)alkyl, isopropyl, (C<sub>2-3</sub>)1-alkenyl, isopropenyl, 1,2-propadienyl, or (C<sub>2-3</sub>)1-alkynyl, each optionally substituted by halogen; or R<sub>2</sub> is cyclopropyl, or cyclopropenyl, each optionally substituted by (C<sub>1-2</sub>)alkyl or halogen;

R<sub>3</sub> is hydrogen, (C<sub>1-2</sub>)alkyl, or ethenyl;

R<sub>4</sub> is (C<sub>1-2</sub>) alkyl;

R<sub>5</sub> is hydrogen, or (C<sub>1-15</sub>)acyl; and

the dotted lines indicate optional bonds.

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15. (Currently Amended) A The method of treatment according to  
claim 14, wherein R<sub>2</sub> is selected from the group consisting of  
ethyl, ethenyl, ethynyl, propyl, 1-propenyl, 1-propynyl, 1,2-  
propadienyl, and cyclopropyl.

16. (Currently Amended) A The method of treatment according to  
claim 15, wherein the steroid compound is selected from the  
group consisting of (7 $\alpha$ ,17 $\beta$ )-7-ethyl-17-hydroxyestr-4-en-3-one,  
(7 $\alpha$ ,17 $\beta$ )-7,13-diethyl-17-hydroxygon-4-en-3-one, and (7 $\alpha$ ,17 $\beta$ )-7-  
ethenyl-13-ethyl-17-hydroxygon-4-en-3-one.